



PRESS RELEASE

Monday 24th November 2025

For immediate use

The brilliant Retford Christmas Market & Lights Switch-On event started off Christmas in Retford on Sunday 23rd November 2025

The Christmas Market & Lights Switch-On event, on Sunday 23rd November 2025, was a fabulous family start to Christmas for everyone, with over one hundred brilliant stalls, delicious street food, a fair, and many of the great shops and hospitality venues open in town.

There was fabulous family fun from 10am to 6pm, with a programme on stage which started at 10.30am, with a well-attended service on stage, led by Rev Julie Coates, following a parade by the Blue Ice Cheerleaders. Entertainment on stage continued with performances from the Elizabethan Academy Choir, Heather Turner's Dance Tuition, Fame Academy Retford, Blue Ice Cheerleaders, LCSD Dance Academy, The Performance Hub, Jessica Mary Brett, and Abba Fever.

Santa arrived at 12noon, thanks to Retford Lions, and said hello on stage with the STEP Fusion Robot Dogs. He welcomed visitors to his grotto in the Town Hall until 5pm, when he switched on the lights with his little helper, Eliza, and the STEP Fusion Robot Dogs, Toc, and Mac.

And...don't forget to save the date.....the amazing Illuminate - Winter Festival of Light event, featuring the children's lantern parade led by the Spark! drummers, will take place between 4pm and 7pm, on Thursday 11th December 2025.

These events are organised by Retford Business Forum in partnership with Bassetlaw District Council and North Notts BID.

Notes for editors.

Retford Business Forum (RBF) relies entirely on its members, donations, and grants, and is not regularly funded by anyone. Members include individuals, businesses, and organisations, from around Bassetlaw, and information about Retford Business Forum can be found at www.retfordbusinessforum.org.uk.

Photographs were taken by Rick Brand at Retford Christmas Market & Lights Switch-On on Sunday 23rd November 2025. The photograph of the Spark! drummers is a promotional image, available online.